

GIBRALTAR.

A Description of the Mightiest Fortification in the World.

How the Rock Appears—Bristling with Cannon Everywhere—Nothing More Beyond—The Terrible Edge of a Century Ago—Importance of the Fortification to England—It is Impregnable.

Special Correspondence THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE, GIBRALTAR, FEB. 13, 1893.

ITHIN the walls of the most ancient fortification in the world the days of final peace seem to be still in the future. Here, where the principal sounds are the tramp of soldiers and the sound of bugles, or perhaps the report of a gun, there are abundant reminders that armies still have an important place among present-day institutions. Gibraltar, strikingly impressive in its situation, is still more so when one wanders about among the various batteries, and witnesses how ingenious men are in inventing methods of destroying his fellow-man.

As I rode through the streets of Gibraltar and the great rock came into view it was natural to contrast the present with the past. There is a legend that the Romans, believing this to be the end of the land, wrote above this rock the words, "No more beyond." They called this rock the "Gib" and the opposite on the African shore the "Gates of Hercules," created by him to mark the boundaries of the world. Beyond here they in their superstition thought that a mighty hand would reach out and draw the two continents together. The waves, so the ancients did not venture far into the Atlantic, and it has been only about four centuries since anyone was found bold enough to break away from the superstition. Gibraltar, approached from the Atlantic, appears like a huge rock or mass of rocks rising directly from the water. It is only on a very near approach that the connection with the mainland is seen. The connection is a narrow isthmus, which has been likened to a mighty sphinx. By giving the imagination full play such an appearance might be recognized. On a clear day at times appears scarcely more than a third that distance. Anyone acquainted with the sea will know how deceiving distances can be with water intervening.

Who was it gave the idea that Gibraltar was a bare rock? It is far from being so. From the base to the top it is covered with some kind of plants. It is true, they are rather sparse at the extreme top. None of it is capable of cultivation, but furnishes pasture for goats and supports some sheep. Probably only the latter could tell how palatable the prickly-pears and nuts of the rock soil really are.

This rock, apparently so harmless and unimportant, has been the scene of many stirring actions. For the sake of this lonely looking, precipitous elevation thousands of lives have been sacrificed and millions of hard-earned money poured forth.

From time almost immemorial it has been occupied by every new conquering race and considered as one of the most important positions in the world. The Phoenicians, the Carthaginians, the Moors, Spaniards, and lastly the English have waved their flag aloft to the breeze from its lofty top.

The capture of Gibraltar by the English was not a great event, nor does the capture deserve special credit. It was taken in 1704, when Spain was engaged in an internal war about her royal crown. An English Admiral sailed in and made the capture with the least possible effort. He was defended by only 150 men, but however little a matter the capture was, the siege it has sustained since then, was something worthy of record.

Gibraltar has stood no less than a dozen sieges. The greatest, however, was about a hundred years ago by the combined French and Spanish forces. Determined by one last great effort to expel the blue-eyed son of Jove and rain, the Governments offered a prize for the most feasible plan of attack. Finally, floating batteries were constructed and armed with mortars. Then followed a siege of four months. The batteries were constructed and armed with mortars. Then followed a siege of four months. The batteries were constructed and armed with mortars. Then followed a siege of four months.

At the summit there are two peaks—on one a battery and on the other a signal station. The battery consists of only one gun, and yet it is considered more effective than a common battery of a score. It is of the latest pattern, and has just been put up. With it, at its high elevation of 1,400 feet, the sea is visible, and could sweep the whole of the straits, and even reach the coast of Africa, 15 miles away. Of course this claim has never been verified. The gun is a rapid firing, and is also so placed that it is claimed to be an impossibility to dismount it by a shot from below. No curve could be fired that could possibly reach it.

On the other summit is the signal station. This is furnished with the best instruments, and every vessel as soon as sighted is telegraphed to headquarters below. No fleet could approach by day without being seen a long distance off, and at night strong electric search-lights could be thrown out to an immense distance. One battery is now being mounted below so that it could be fired from this signal station by means of electric wires, so it was told.

It is a difficult matter to obtain correct information about the "Gib." The officers will tell little and the men are not always correctly informed. Just how many guns there really are no outsider knows. Just what the entire arrangements are, the general public will not be informed.

The old guns are now being replaced by new and modern long-range quick-firing ones. Former 98- or 100-ton guns are now represented by guns of less weight and more service. Even whole batteries are now removed and one or two guns mounted to take their place. So many of the groups of guns now seen are considered almost obsolete.

Martial law reigns supreme on the island. Change ever where seems to be the order of the day at this great fortress.

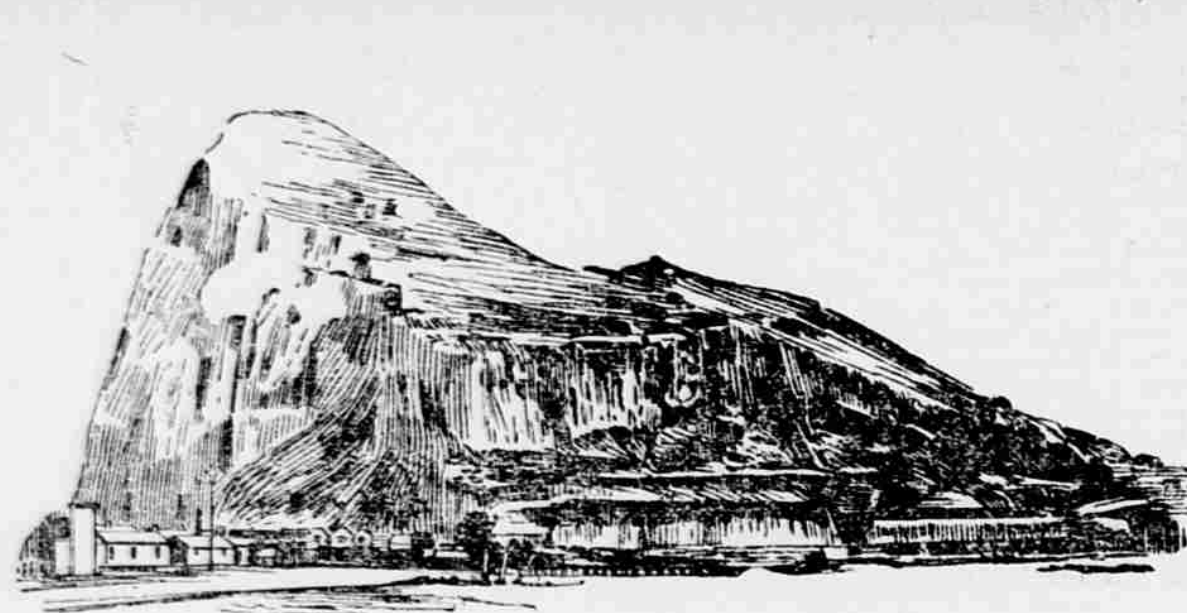
Supplies of provisions and ammunition are continually kept stored. Provisions for a population of 25,000 to 30,000 for a period of seven years are kept on hand. Shells and shot and powder are kept in almost unlimited quantity.

A few minutes after evening-gun Gibraltar, most perpendicularly for 1,400 feet. From the east and south side it is almost equally precipitous. On the west side the slope is more gradual than the others, and here the town is located. On the slopes of the hill for a quarter of a mile from the sea lies a dense mass of houses, excepting in one part where there is a tastefully laid-out recreation grounds.

The fortifications are very complex. On the sides next to sea there is a triple line of batteries. First, along the sea is a newly-built massive stone wall. Back of this, and more concealed, is a second line of batteries. Higher on the hill is an old line of fortifications. The newly-erected wall is a marvel of strength. It is high toward the sea, very thick, and made of big blocks of stone. It follows the coast line, and thus is irregularly built. Down almost under the walls are the quarters for the gunners and also magazines for the ammunition.

The second line of batteries are concealed to a great extent. At one place from out a heavy rifle shrapnel peeps the mouth of an immense hundred-ton gun. Elsewhere from out the most unexpected places the mouth of a cannon can be seen projecting. A most surprising sight is to see a cannon barrel in a very narrow passage. It looks as if a foe were hourly expected and everything had been got in readiness to give him a warm reception.

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GIBRALTAR FROM THE SEA.

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The galleries are hewn out of the solid rock, a great part of the work having been done by convicts. They are constructed on the side facing the Spanish frontier. The work done is something marvellous in the way of defense. At intervals in the tunnels an opening is made

for the mouth of a cannon. A land attacking army would find it difficult to descend from these arrays of guns, and could inflict little harm in return. Here the gunners could work almost entirely concealed from danger. They would be at a height of several hundred feet, and the openings are very small. Besides there would be perfectly safe storages for any amount of ammunition. There was an army to attack from this side the ground could be swept by such a storm of leaden hail that it would not be possible to stand for any length of time.

A part of these galleries are shown to no one. What is being done or what has been done is only a matter of conjecture. Possibly some new engines of destruction being put in for the mouth of a cannon. A land attacking army would find it difficult to descend from these arrays of guns, and could inflict little harm in return. Here the gunners could work almost entirely concealed from danger. They would be at a height of several hundred feet, and the openings are very small. Besides there would be perfectly safe storages for any amount of ammunition. There was an army to attack from this side the ground could be swept by such a storm of leaden hail that it would not be possible to stand for any length of time.

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men are by far better able to discuss the question than a civilian. Certain it is that everything which modern science has contrived for strengthening it has been and is continually being added. War-ships would be exposed to a terribly-raking fire from the batteries, and land armies would be in a still worse position. As a further defense a part of the land is undermined and could be blown up, thus making the place practically an island. The harbor could likewise be protected by sunken torpedoes and other modern inventions. So on the whole I do not see where an attacking force could possibly have much chance of success when the rock is defended by a garrison of several thousand.

This possession of England has proven a most expensive one for the country. Several good-sized fortresses have been expended in fortifying and defending this small bit of territory containing less than three square miles of surface. The annual outlay is something like a million dollars from the treasury in improvements alone, exclusive of materials. A garrison of 5,000 men is kept in the barracks continually. There are four regiments of infantry and the rest are artillery, with a very few cavalry. Over two hundred and fifty millions have been spent here since England came into possession. A few such possessions aid in preventing any surplus in the imperial treasury.

The importance to England of this otherwise almost valueless rock is almost incalculable. England is to such an extent a maritime nation that the safety of her trade and coasting stations for her numerous navy. No situation could be better than Gibraltar for a protection to her.

All the ships for India and Egypt and a large percentage for Australia pass through the Mediterranean Sea. Gibraltar, situated at the entrance, is a four days' sail from London. Malta is a four days' sail from Gibraltar. Egypt is further by three days. So from London to the far East, England possesses a series of ports separated by comparatively short distances.

Gibraltar was a goodly prize for the victors. It is a great trading station for merchant steamers as well as war boats. Immense quantities of coal are kept on hand and constantly replenished.

To have an entire command of the straits, England should possess the promontory of Geta, opposite to the African coast. Spain, however, possesses this, which serves as a partial compensation for the loss of Gibraltar. It is occupied by the Spanish forces and is strongly fortified, but is used chiefly as a military prison. Its strength will not in any degree compare with that of Gibraltar, yet it affords an excellent harbor.

On the whole, England was wise in her choice. Gibraltar—the very name has become synonymous for something unconquerable. We are told of armies that they stood like the rock of Gibraltar. Any great fortress is likened to Gibraltar.

At all times a greater or less number of war-ships have kept the sea. It is a fine coal-station for the squadrons of the Mediterranean and eastern Atlantic.

It seems to me, however, that its greatest importance is in the way of trade. Gibraltar is a distributing point for English merchandise, and for the northern part of Africa. Its proximity as a fortress serves to protect English merchants in Morocco, and among the more turbulent tribes of the interior. It is a distributing point for English merchandise, and for the northern part of Africa. Its proximity as a fortress serves to protect English merchants in Morocco, and among the more turbulent tribes of the interior.

This part I do not think has been fully taken into account by English merchants. Trade with these North African races is, however, only in its infancy yet. They have hardly begun to appreciate the advantages of civilization. It would be a good thing if some colonizing nation would take these half-civilized people under their protection.

The climate of Gibraltar has proven very fatal to English soldiers. It is a residence of a few years there has undermined the health of many a robust English red-coat. I visited some of the barracks. They are not furnished with any luxuries and seemed rather bare, yet they may compare very favorably with those in many other places. A soldier's bed is not strewn with roses, as a rule, and the path to glory is generally a hard climb.

The level neck of land between the rock and mainland is termed the neutral ground. On one side is a line of English sentries and on the other, less than half a mile away, is a line of Spanish sentries. The feeling between the two is not of the best, and strict regulations are observed in regard to visits between the two.

The great trouble of Gibraltar is a free port. Nothing is so common as to see spirits and wines. So there is a great temptation to smuggle things across the Spanish frontier. Tobacco especially is the favorite commodity. Anyone watching can see scores of people, especially women, engaged in this illicit trade.

At night tobacco is smuggled by means of dogs, which are trained to avoid the sentries. This fact has proven fatal to some English sentries. The Spanish soldiers are the last of marksmen, or are very careless. In aiming at a dog they have sometimes hit a soldier of Britain.

Thus it is that the path of honor has in a few cases led but to the grave.

N. O. WINTER.

Valuable Seed Catalog.

Messrs. Perry Henderson & Co., 33, 37 Cortlandt street, New York City, have issued their catalog for the season, and is both unique and practical in itself and proves the merited distinction which this house holds of being first and foremost in all its particulars.

The last cover-page is in bronze, illumined by beautiful red and white peepers, and underneath showing the landing of Columbus the day he discovered the continent. It is a well-kept-up design of a lawn bordered on a lake, showing the mansion in the distance.

This is a handsome catalog, as has been issued this year, and is costly, and for this reason is only sent on receipt of 25 cents, which amount, however, can in all cases be deducted from the first order sent to them.

For a perfect and permanent cure for Catarrh, take Dr. Suggs' Catarrh Remedy. It is a perfect and permanent cure for Catarrh, take Dr. Suggs' Catarrh Remedy. It is a perfect and permanent cure for Catarrh, take Dr. Suggs' Catarrh Remedy.

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HISTORY OF THE CORPS.

(Continued from first page.)

Lawler. First Brigade—Col. Thomas J. Lucas—16th, 60th, 67th Ind.; 83d, 96th Ohio; 23d Wis.; 17th Ohio battery. Second Brigade—Lieut.-Col. John Cowan—77th, 97th, 120th Ill.; 19th Ky.; 45th Ohio; Chicago Mercantile Battery.

Cavalry Brigade—Col. John J. Mudd—2d Ill. (7 Co's.); 6th Ill. (7 Co's.); 15th Ill. (Co. C.); 30th Ill. (Co. A.); 1st Ind. (Co. C.); 4th Ind. (Co. C.); 3d Mo. (4 Co's.).

At the close of July, 1863, Maj.-Gen. Nathaniel P. Banks was named by the Department of the Gulf with Headquarters at New Orleans, made an appeal for troops to replace the nine-months men in his command whose term of service was about to expire, and Gen. Grant was ordered to send down a corps of 10,000 or 12,000 men.

Accordingly the Thirtieth Corps was sent to Carrollton, La., between the 10th and 26th of August. Shortly thereafter Gen. Ord, the corps commander, took sick leave, and the corps was placed in command of Gen. Caldwell. C. Washburn, with Benton, Herron, Lee, and Lawler commanding the divisions.

On Sept. 15, Gen. Ord resumed command of the corps. At the end of August Banks had a force of about 37,000 officers and men for duty, of which about 13,000 belonged to the Thirtieth Corps. On Sept. 13 Gen. George F. McGinnis was assigned to the command of the Thirtieth Division, then at Opelousas, La.

At a new view to obtain a road to the Texas, Gen. Banks planned a movement up the Teche as far as Lafayette or Vermilion, thence across the plains by Niblett's Bluff into Texas, and during the latter part of September Weitzel's and Emory's Divisions, of the Nineteenth Corps, supported by

McGinnis and McGinnis's Divisions, of the Thirtieth Corps, moved on. Gen. Ord, who was concentrated on the lower Teche, near Camp Bisland. Burbridge's Division, of the Thirtieth Corps, remained at Carrollton, and Herron's Division had been posted at Morganza to prevent any movement of the Confederates across the upper Atchafalaya. This division was moved to the lower Teche, where it had just turned over the command to Gen. N. J. T. Dana, when on Sept. 29 the enemy swept down upon the outposts, killing 16, wounding 45, and taking 454 prisoners, including nearly the full strength of the 19th Iowa and 26th Ind. regiments.

On Oct. 3 the Nineteenth Corps, under Gen. Franklin, moved to a position near the mouth of the Bayou Canero. At the same time the Thirtieth Corps, which meanwhile had been joined by Burbridge's Division from Carrollton, moved out from Berwick, and on the 14th closed up on Franklin at the Canero. On Oct. 15, Gen. Ord being ill, Washburn took command of the division. The Thirtieth Corps moved on, following the command of Gen. Lawler, and on Oct. 26 Gen. N. J. T. Dana assumed command of the remainder of the corps.

The advance to the Canero had brought the Thirtieth Corps into contact with the enemy under Taylor, and with the view of occupying and pushing him farther away Franklin on Oct. 21 marched to Opelousas, skirmishing on the way, and during the remainder of the day occupied a position covering that town and Barre's Landing.

On Oct. 26 Gen. Banks, with the Second Division of the Thirtieth Corps, under Dana, moved to the mouth of the Bayou Canero, and the 1st Cav., embarked at New Orleans for the mouth of the Rio Grande, and after long delays consequent upon bad weather landed at Brazos Santiago, Tex., on Nov. 2, and occupied the 6th occupied Point Isabel and Brownsville, about 30 miles distant on the mainland.

The foothold in Texas having thus been secured, Banks planned to connect the Gulf of Mexico with the lagoons or sounds of the Texas coast from the Rio Grande to the Sabine. He accordingly sent for the rest of the Thirtieth Corps, and by the close of December had taken possession of the edge of the coast as far east and north as Matagorda Bay. During these operations the 13th and 15th Me. formed part of the Second Division of the Thirtieth Corps.

In the latter part of October the First Division moved from Opelousas back to New Iberia, followed by the Fourth Division, Gen. Burbridge, who took the Teche road by Grand Cane.

On Nov. 3, while Gen. Burbridge was in camp on Bayou Bourbeau, two brigades of the division, under Green, came upon him, and after a short fight, the latter retired, leaving a camp, causing Green to withdraw, taking with him one 10-pounder Parrot which he captured just as it was crossing the Bayou, the horses having been shot. The engagement, though short, was a spirited one, and resulted in a loss to Burbridge of 25 killed, 129 wounded, and 502 captured or missing.

By the end of December the Thirtieth Corps had been divided into three divisions, which was at Plaquemine, on the Mississippi River, and the Third Division, which was at Algiers, La., had been transferred to Texas. No important movements occurred during the second of January and February, except the transfer of the Fourth Division from Texas to Berwick, La.

On the 22d of January, 1864, Maj.-Gen. John A. Ransom was by direct order of the President, assigned to duty as the Department of the Gulf. He reported to Maj.-Gen. Banks on the 15th of February, 1864, and on the 20th was assigned to the command of the Thirtieth Corps, which he took on the 21st.

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infantry, and at about 1:30 p. m. arrived at the front, five and a half miles from St. Patrick's Bay. He found that the Union forces had just driven the enemy across an open field, and were shelling him from a fine position on a ridge occupied by Col. Landrum with his infantry and Nim's battery.

A halt was here made to allow the Second Brigade to come up and relieve the First, and on reconnoitering the position of the enemy it was discovered that two batteries and a large force of infantry were in line of battle in the edge of the woods, about three-fourths of a mile in front, and that considerable bodies of infantry were moving down the road leading to the right and rear of the Union forces.

About 3 p. m. Gen. Banks and staff arrived upon the field, and disposition of the troops was made in accordance with Gen. Banks's directions.

About 4 p. m. the enemy commenced to advance his line across the open field in front, and Col. Landrum, on the right of the Union front, advanced his line and opened fire on the enemy, who was in good range and advancing in two lines. His first line was driven back in confusion upon his second, but recovering he again advanced, but unable to endure the heavy fire, halted about 200 yards from the front of the Union lines. In the meantime the enemy had succeeded in turning the left flank of the Union forces, had taken Nim's battery, and were pouring a destructive fire into the batteries of the Fourth Division. Gen. Ransom gave orders to his Assistant Adjutant-General, Capt. Dickey, to order Col. Landrum to withdraw his division to the edge of the timber in the rear, but while in the performance of this duty Capt. Dickey was mortally wounded, and some of the regiments not receiving the orders were surrounded and their retreat cut off while they were gallantly fighting the superior force of the enemy in front.

While Gen. Ransom was engaged with Col. Landrum in reforming the line to the edge of the woods he was severely wounded in the knee, and carried to the rear, Gen. Cameron then succeeding to his command.

The Union forces fought with great gallantry, but were unable to overcome the largely superior force of the enemy.

The loss of the Thirtieth Corps in the engagement at Sabine Crossroads, or as sometimes called Pleasant Grove, was 1,405, distributed as follows:

Command.	Killed.	Wounded.	Capt'd or missing.
Staff.	1	2	2
Third Division.	1	4	1
Provost Guard.	1	4	1
24th Iowa, Co. F.	1	4	1

First Brigade.	Enlisted men.	Officers.	Enlisted men.	Officers.	Enlisted men.	Officers.	Aggregate.
46th Ind.	1	7	2	10	3	83	106
29th Wis. (five companies).	1	5	1	11	4	43	69
Total.	1	12	3	21	7	126	166

Second Brigade.	Enlisted men.	Officers.	Enlisted men.	Officers.	Enlisted men.	Officers.	Aggregate.
24th Iowa (five companies).	1	1	14	3	17	35	53
26th Ind.	1	3	38	1	41	18	83
26th Ohio.	1	2	14	1	18	35	56
Total.	1	11	55	5	69	88	145

Fourth Division.	Enlisted men.	Officers.	Enlisted men.	Officers.	Enlisted men.	Officers.	Aggregate.
7th Ind.	1	5	29	10	34		